

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all the pending claims are provided whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the remaining claims in this application as indicated below:

1. **(Amended)** A battery contact and holding apparatus comprising:
- a door;
 - a hinging mechanism coupled to the door;
 - a battery compartment, the door pivotally coupled by the hinging mechanism to the battery compartment to selectively provide access to an interior of the battery compartment;
- [a plurality of] **first and second** contacts for electrically coupling to a battery in the battery compartment, the **first and second** contacts coupled to the battery compartment;
- a post locator associated with the battery compartment **and comprising an inclined ledge that extends across at least a portion of the battery compartment** for aligning [one or more] **first and second** posts of [a] **the** battery with [one or more of] the [plurality of] **first and second** contacts and for [disallowing] **preventing** the door to close off the interior of the battery compartment if [a] **the** battery is not properly placed **such that the first post is aligned with the first contact and the second post is aligned with the second contact**.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the door comprises a battery-holding door having a cover, a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, the cover and side walls coupled together to form a battery-receiving housing.

8/4/97

3. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the third side wall is formed with a notch therein operable to facilitate flexing of the first and second side walls for installing in the battery compartment.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the hinging mechanism comprises:

a hinge lip formed on the door; and
a hinge edge formed on the battery compartment for receiving the hinge lip and allowing limited rotation of the hinge lip about the hinge edge.

a 2

5. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the post locator is [attached] coupled to the door.

6. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the post locator is [attached] coupled to the battery compartment.

8/4/97

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a latch mechanism formed on the door.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the latch mechanism comprises an elongated latching tab formed on the door.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising an access cavity formed in the battery compartment for facilitating opening of the door.

10. (Amended) A battery contact and holding apparatus comprising:
a door comprising a concave hinge lip extending substantially across the door;

a battery compartment comprising a hinge edge extending substantially across the battery compartment, the hinge lip being pivotally coupled to the hinge edge between the hinge edge and [associated with the door, the battery compartment having] an interior of the battery compartment [, the door] for selectively providing access to the interior of the battery compartment when the hinge lip is selectively pivoted about the hinge edge;

a plurality of contacts for electrically coupling to a battery in the battery compartment; and

a post locator associated with the battery compartment for aligning one or more posts of [a] the battery with one or more of the plurality of contacts and for disallowing the door to close off the interior of the battery compartment if [a] the battery is not properly placed.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the post locator is formed with first and second apertures or cutouts, the first aperture or cutout having a size and configuration such that the first aperture or cutout is operable to receive a negative contact of a nine volt battery, the second aperture or cutout having a size and configuration such that the second aperture or cutout is operable to receive a positive contact of a nine volt battery but is not operable to receive a negative contact of a nine volt battery.

12. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the post locator comprises [a] an inclined ledge extending substantially across the battery compartment for aligning a first positive post with a first contact and for aligning a second negative post with a second contact, the ledge defining a first region adapted to receive the first positive post and a second region

24

adapted to receive the second negative post, the first region being narrower than the second region and too narrow to receive the second negative post, the ledge preventing the door from closing off the interior of the battery compartment if the battery is not properly placed such that the first positive post is aligned with the first contact and the second negative post is aligned with the second contact.

24

13. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the post locator comprises a means for aligning one or more posts of a battery with one or more of the plurality of contacts and for disallowing the door to close off the interior of the battery compartment if a battery is not properly placed.

14. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the post locator is formed with an aperture or cutout, the aperture or cutout having a size and configuration such that the aperture or cutout is operable to receive a first post of a battery, the first post having a first polarity, the aperture or cutout also having a size and configuration such that the aperture or cutout is not operable to receive a second post of the battery, the second post having a second polarity, the first polarity different from the second polarity.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the post locator is formed with an aperture, the aperture having a size and configuration such that the aperture is operable to receive a positive post of a AA battery but not operable to receive a negative post of a AA battery.

16. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the post locator is formed with an aperture, the aperture having a size and configuration such that the aperture is operable to receive a positive post of a AAA battery but not operable to receive a negative post of a AAA battery.

Claims 17-20 were previously withdrawn from consideration.

17.2x (Amended) A battery contact and holding apparatus comprising:

a battery holding means for holding a battery;

a selective access means for selectively providing access to an interior of the battery holding means, the selective access means having a closed position and an open position, the selective access means comprising a concave hinge lip and a hinge edge that each extend substantially across the battery holding means, the hinge lip being pivotally coupled to the hinge edge between the hinge edge and the interior of the battery holding means to provide access to the interior of the battery holding means when the hinge lip is selectively pivoted about the hinge edge to place the selective access means in the open position;

a contact means comprising first and second contacts for electrically coupling to a battery in the battery holding means, the contact means coupled to the battery holding means; and

a means for aligning [one or more] first and second posts of [a] the battery with the first and second contacts, respectively, of the contact means and for disallowing closing of the selective access means if a battery is not properly aligned, the means for aligning comprising an inclined ledge extending across a substantial portion of the battery holding means and defining a first region adapted to receive the first post and a second region adapted to receive the second post, the first region being narrower than the second region and too narrow to receive the second post.